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# THE BRYAN EAGLE.

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## BIOGRAPHIES.

### PRESIDENT L. S. ROSS AND THE FIRST CLASS.



Joseph Fleming Ross was born near Linden, Cass county, Texas, April 10, 1872. After completing the course of study in Cass county schools he went to Texarkana and attended the high school where he remained until September, 1888, when he came to the A. and M. college, entering the third class and taking the mechanical engineering course. Mr. Ross is second lieutenant of company A, and stands high in the esteem of his fellow classmates. He represented the Austin society yesterday morning by reading an essay during the joint celebration of the two societies. His thesis is "Link and Connections" and when he returns to his home in Texarkana he will put the knowledge gained at the A. and M. college to immediate and practical use by accepting a position as draughtsman in a shop where he will obtain a good study of machinery until he shall have become a proficient scientific engineer.



Wm. E. Giesecke is eighteen years old, having been born June 30, 1874, in New Braunfels, Comal county, Texas, and is consequently a native Texan boy. He is of German parentage. His early education was obtained in the New Braunfels academy, entering the fourth class at the A. and M. C., September 1888, and graduating in 1891, has completed the prescribed course each year. His course is Mechanical Engineering, and the subject of his graduating thesis is "Governor and slide valve of straight line engine in Machine shop." Mr. Giesecke is a member of the arrangement committee this year, and has during his long term at the college conducted himself in a manner highly creditable, and which has won the confidence of the faculty and his associates. It is his aim to pursue the profession of engineering or drawing in after years.



Liverpool, Brazoria county, Texas, is the birthplace of George Grupe, the subject of this sketch, and August 12th, 1873, the date of his birth, hence, he is nineteen years old. After attending the public free school of Galveston he entered the fourth class of the A. and M., September 19, 1888 and has continued through the course. He took the course in Mechanical Engineering and expects to follow the same as his profession on leaving school. Mr. Grupe secured his education mainly through his own exertion and has a very creditable thesis on "Steam heating."



Mr. Edgar Wright, who for the past session has held the position of senior captain, was born May 1st, 1874, at Paris, Lamar county, Texas, of Scotch parents. He finished at the Paris high school before entering the A. and M. college, which he did in September, 1888, in the fourth class. He has

taken a thorough course in Civil Engineering and intends to take a course at the University as a law student in the near future, thence to make of himself a legal light. He has a comprehensive thesis on "Common roads." He occupied the position of chairman of the arrangement committee during the exercises. Mr. Wright has proven himself a good debater, a popular student and captain.



A student with honor to himself and his college is Mr. Henry Charles Schumacher. He was born in LaGrange, Fayette county, Texas, July 31, 1872, and after completing the prescribed course in the Fayette county high school at LaGrange entered the third class at the A. and M. college, January 4th, 1890, and took up the course of Civil Engineering. He was a close student and always stood well in his classes, coming out the first most distinguished in the C. E. course. He is first lieutenant and private secretary, and a bright military student. The subject of his thesis is "Railroad earthwork," which he has the honor of reading this morning to the audience. He is of German parents, but is a native Texan, and a most agreeable and social young man.



Mr. Frank Lee Buford was born February 16, 1873, at Sabine Pass, Jefferson county, Texas. He is of American birth, education and honor. After finishing school at Beaumont, Texas, he entered the Fourth class at the A. and M. C., January 16th, 1889. For the past session he has occupied the position of second lieutenant company D. He has just completed a thorough course in Civil Engineering and circumstances being favorable he will pursue it as his avocation. Mr. Buford is one of the invitation committee and has a well written thesis on "Tests on East Texas pines" having gained much of his knowledge from personal experience and observation.



In the far west border town of Laredo, Oct. 24, 1870, was born Mr. Jose A. Ortiz. A native of Texas, of Mexican extraction, he combines in his disposition and mind the best qualities of both. He attended school in Galveston before entering the A. and M. C. which he did in matriculating in the fourth class March 7, 1888. He has pursued the course in civil engineering and intends to make it his life work. Mr. Ortiz is a member of the Invitation Committee, and has many friends among the faculty and students. Although he has not by his own exertions obtained the educational advantages that have been his, yet he has appreciated and improved his opportunities. He has a very able thesis on "Foundations."



The position of first lieutenant and quartermaster this past year has been ably filled by Mr. Daniel Elmore Neathery, who was born in Farmersville, Collin county, Texas, July 4, 1870. Of Scotch-Irish descent, he is truly a fourth of July

patriot. Having attended and finished school at the Farmersville academy, in September, 1889, he entered the Third class at the A. and M. C. and remained a student there until the present time when he will leave the halls to return no more as a scholar, but to enter the field with the great minority plow-

### Gov. L. S. Ross.

Gen. Lawrence Sullivan Ross was born in Bentonport, Iowa, September 27, 1838. In the following spring his father, Capt. Shapley P. Ross, moved to Texas and became Indian agent at Waco, which was then a mere Indian village. His sister, now Mrs. Kate Padgett of Waco, was the first white child born in McLennan county. His early boyhood was spent surrounded by hostile Comanches; and inured to hardships and dangers, thus fitting him for deeds of bravery which afterwards characterized him. In 1858, while at home on a summer vacation from Florence Wesleyan university of Alabama, he won his spurs and the sobriquet of "the boy captain" in a desperate battle with the Comanches, slaying ninety-five of their number, capturing 350 head of horses and recovering from the brutal redskins the little girl whose parents were never known, but whom Ross brought up and educated, naming her Lizzie Ross. A dangerous wound received by



GOV. L. S. ROSS, PRESIDENT.

young Ross in this engagement almost put an end to his brilliant career. On his recovery he returned to his alma mata, where he graduated with distinction the following summer.

Immediately on his return to Texas in 1859, he was placed in command of the frontier by the clear sighted governor, Sam Houston, and organizing at once a faithful band of followers of like mettle with himself, he defeated the Comanches with great slaughter, destroying their principal village and stronghold, captured over four hundred horses, and rescued Cynthia Ann Parker. In this memorable battle the Ross killed in a hand-to-hand combat the chief Peta Noona, whose shield, lance, buffalo-horns, etc., were sent as trophies to Governor Houston at Austin, where they were deposited in the state archives. The incidents of this desperate struggle have been related with pride by old Texas settlers and listened to with thrilling interest by the young around many

ing and sowing and reaping where their pathway may lie. He is on the arrangement committee and is business manager of the committee. He has a very interesting and instructive thesis on a subject which is attracting so much attention just now in Texas, "Forestry." Mr. Neathery already has had

practical experience in the raising of animals and intends to assist his father in a general mercantile business and also to keep a stock farm for himself, improving his own and educating his less fortunate fellowman to appreciate the rewards of all useful farm ani-

mal Texas fireside, and forms one of the most fascinating chapters in the history of our state. Entering the Confederate army as a private, he rapidly rose to major, lieutenant-colonel, colonel, and at the age of twenty-five was brigadier-general. He participated in 135 engagements of more or less importance, and had seven horses shot from under him; but it was at the battle of Corinth, when in a charge upon Battery Robinett within the short distance of 300 yards, he lost 50 out of 350 men before the fort could be reached and taken; that he won his greatest distinction as the "hero of Corinth." In response to a letter from the confederate war department, Gen. Dabney H. Maury gave L. S. Ross as the name of the man who displayed the most distinguished gallantry on this memorable occasion.

After the war which had left him penniless he went to farming. In 1873 he was sheriff of his county, and as such succeeded in putting down lawlessness; in 1875 a member of the constitutional conven-



tion, and in 1881 was elected to the state senate, in which body he served as chairman of the finance committee. Often solicited to become a candidate for governor he only consented in 1886, when he was nominated and elected, and re-elected in 1888 by a majority of 152,000. His record as governor is too well known to the people of the state to require comment. He retired from this high office carrying with him the plaudits of friends and opponents; having given universal satisfaction by his conservative patriotic policy he had the honor of affording the state one of the most popular administrations that Texas has ever had. In January, 1890, he stepped from the governor's office to the president's chair of the Agricultural and Mechanical college of Texas, where he is having ample opportunity to display his fine executive and administrative ability. As a soldier unsurpassed in gallantry, as a statesman in the foremost rank, it is now his ambition and his versatility of genius no less qualifies him, to take a high place as an educator.



One of the Lieutenants of Co. D is Mr. DeWitt Stephen Cox, who was born near La Grange, Fayette county, Texas, August 26, 1872. His parents were both direct from

England. He graduated at the Giddings high school, and, upon examination, was given a first grade certificate to teach in the Texas free schools. Entered the second class at the A. and M. college in September, 1890 and finishes the prescribed course in civil engineering to-day, and has a thesis on topographical surveying and expects to make an architect, building his castles not in air, but on cardboard and paper. He is chairman of society and arrangement committee. Represented the Austin society in the joint society celebration.



For the past four years these college walls and roofs have sheltered, the teachers instructed and drilled, the orchards and gardens tempted and the mess hall sustained one who to-day proudly takes his diploma, but sadly feels that his A. and M. school days are gone, and that Billie Varner Ellis is on the eve of life's battle with man to man. With an exceptionally sunny disposition and a bright smile and pleasant word for fellow students, he will live long in the hearts of those who knew him. Mr. Ellis was born in Cove Springs, Floyd county, Georgia, September 10, 1871, and is therefore of legal age. He entered the Fourth class at the A. and M. college on Sept. 3, 1888, having completed the prescribed course at the Paris public schools. He is chairman of reception committee, and for some time past has held the military position of First Lieutenant of Company D. He has taken the course of Scientific Agriculture, and has an interesting thesis on the Forage question. Mr. Ellis thinks Humanity's best gift to man the power to lessen the ill which flesh is heir to, and so he will begin the study of medicine and end his name M. D.



The subject of this sketch, Mr. Edmond Henry Sauvigniet is a Texan by birth, but of French extraction. He is 17 years old being born Sept. 19, 1874 and San Antonio his home. He attended school at Lyons, France before entering the A. and M. college Sept. 5th, 1886, matriculating in the 4th class. He has taken the B. S. A. course, and has a fine thesis on "Researches on the anatomy of distorsum Texanicum." Mr. Sauvigniet is Capt. of Company D, and is a young man of brilliant mind and he will make a success of his chosen profession, that of a physician.



Mr. Edward Alphonse Cook was born in Canton, Madison county, Miss., Oct. 4th, 1869, and after coming to Texas attended school at Eureka and Cressen, Johnson County ere entering the A. and M. College. He entered the fourth class Sept. 3rd, 1888, and through his own exertions urged by laudable ambition he this week completes the course in mechanical engineering with credit to himself and honor to his Alma Mata. Mr. Cook is 1st Lieut. Company D, and the subject of his thesis is "Equipment and Purpose of the Mechanical Department of this College." Mr. Cook spoke Sunday evening on the "Purpose of the Y. M. C. A." He intends joining the company of Draughtsmen when he shall enter the army of workers.



The subject of this cut is the 2nd Lieut. of Co. B, Mr. Charles Claude Bailey. Mr. Bailey is of Irish descent but is a native Texan, having been born in Marlin, Jan. 17th, 1871, and is thoroughly American, except in his jolly Irish nature and sparkling wit. He attended the Salado College, Bell county until Sept. 1889, when he entered the third class at the A. and M. College. Investigation of the Lampasas bride, Bell county, is the subject of his thesis, and though this year he completes a satisfactory course in civil engineering, he prefers the world of commerce, and will establish himself as a merchant when he returns to his home.



The Captain of Company B for the year's 91-92 has been Mr. Frank Lee Adams, who was born Dec. 5th, 1874, at Stafford, Ft. Bend Co., Texas. Having studied under private tutors at home until he entered the A. and E. C. in Sept., 1888. Those gentle home influences and manners still clung to him, and second nature, gentle habit, soon won him a place in the hearts of his fellow students. He matriculated in the fourth class, taking the scientific agricultural course. He is chairman of the invitation committee and has a well prepared thesis on "Economic chemistry on the farm." Believing those who do the most good to their fellow man, live the longest and the best, he has chosen the occupation of a physician, and on the completion here will take up the study of medicine.



Mr. Charles E. Alexander, one of the youngest and most popular young men in the graduating class of to-day. He entered the third class Sept. 1889, and took the course in scientific agriculture. He was born in Navagoches, of American parents on Jan. 1st, 1870. He attended school in an academy in Houston ere entering the A. and M. College. His education has been gained partly by his own means, and he will enter the profession of merchants on his departure from school. He has a well written thesis on "Cotton Culture."



W. P. Ratheford was born in St. Mary, Refugio county, Texas, March 5th, 1873. Attended the public school at Paint Rock, Texas; entered the A. and M. College Sept. 9, 1889, joining the 3rd class, and is now 2nd Lieut. Company C. "The metallurgy of silver" is the subject for his thesis. His course was that of mechanic, but he expects to study for a profession. Mr. Ratheford has made a record at school that anyone might be proud of.



Mr. W. P. Cottingham is well liked and was a hard working student. He was born at St. Mary, Texas, Aug. 31, 71, is of Scotch-Irish descent, received a common school education at Thornton, Texas, entered the A. and M. College, Sept. 10, '89; course pursued, civil engineering. Is 1st Lieut. Company C. Mr. Cottingham expects to follow civil engineering.